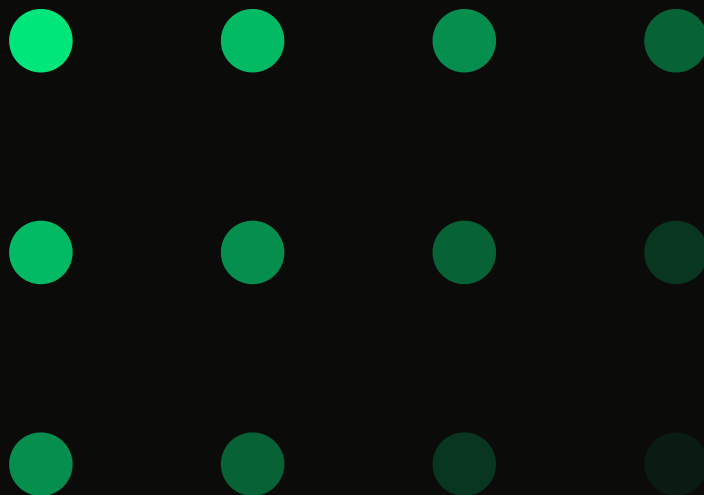




THESIS IN THREE CHAPTERS · POST WEB ERA

2024 THE POST WEB

How AI agents and distributed ledgers are replacing the web we
browse

As AI converges with a decade of Web3 infrastructure, people will increasingly hand tasks to autonomous agents. The web we browse today will shrink, and the internet will reorganise around agents acting on our intent.

The Post Web is Outlier Ventures' thesis for the next stage of the internet. It argues that Web3 was always a back-end revolution. Blockchains, smart contracts and tokens proved too complex for most people to use directly. AI agents can use them easily. As agents take on searching, buying and transacting for us, much of today's web of apps, adverts and feeds stops being needed.

What remains for people is a smaller 'Thin Web' for experiences that need human depth and context. Underneath sits a stack built for agents: wallets, decentralised applications, ledgers and physical infrastructure networks. Ledgers matter because they make agent actions verifiable. The thesis closes with what this means for founders. Agents choose services on proven performance, so moats, brand and retention lose their force.

CONTEXT

By late 2024, large language models had reached hundreds of millions of people and the first AI agents were appearing. Web3, a decade old, still had few mainstream users. Outlier Ventures had backed early decentralised AI and infrastructure projects since 2017 and saw these two strands meeting. The series set out a shared thesis for its portfolio and accelerator founders.

210+

DePIN and DeAI startups with publicly traded tokens

\$50bn

Combined market value of those tokens

400

Companies in the Outlier Ventures portfolio

Figures as stated in the original paper at the time of writing.

One thesis, published in three parts.

Ch. 1

The Web is Disappearing

NOVEMBER 2024

Web3 changed the internet's back-end but never won ordinary users. AI agents can operate that machinery for us. The web moves through a convergence phase, from AI assisting people to AI acting for them. Browsing gives way to delegation, and the attention economy gives way to an intention economy.

Ch. 2

The Technology Stack

DECEMBER 2024

Sets out the stack that agents will use: user, Thin Web, agentic layer, wallets, dApps, ledgers, and resources and infrastructure. Most of it is the existing Web3 stack, adapted for new users. Agents, ledgers and decentralised physical networks reinforce one another, each solving weaknesses in the others.

Ch. 3

Zero to Many

UPDATED NOVEMBER 2025

When agents are the main users, classic startup theory weakens. Agents compare services instantly on proven results, so brand and lock-in count for less. Founders should build modular systems, charge for outcomes, and design tokens and governance that agents as well as people can use. Ten principles summarise the approach.

Five ideas that shaped the paper.

01 **Web3 was built for machines**

A decade of blockchain work produced powerful tools that most people found too hard to use. The thesis reads that decade as groundwork. Agents can handle the complexity, so the infrastructure finally becomes useful at scale.

02 **From attention to intention**

Today's web earns money by capturing attention through ads and feeds. In the Post Web, agents act on what users actually want. Value shifts to fulfilling intent efficiently, with less extraction along the way.

03 **The Thin Web**

Routine transactions move to agents. What is left of the web for people is a smaller layer for rich, contextual and immersive experiences, such as social life, shopping for pleasure and entertainment.

04 **Verification over brand**

Agents need trust they can check. Distributed ledgers record identity, ownership and execution in a form agents can verify. Services that can prove their results get chosen. Those that cannot are passed over.

05 **From startups to systems**

Founders compete for agent selection, not user attention. Products become modular components that agents combine. Revenue follows completed tasks, and tokens become the interface that coordinates incentives between people and machines.

Read, Write, Own, Delegate

Each era of the web added one new capability for users. The Post Web adds delegation: stating an intent and letting agents carry it out.

WEB1: READ

A static, one-way web. Users could find and consume information but rarely interact.

WEB2: WRITE

Platforms let users create and share, but a few companies captured the value.

WEB3: OWN

Ledgers gave users direct ownership of digital assets, but proved too complex for most.

POST WEB: DELEGATE

Users state intents. Agents act on them, with ledgers making each action verifiable.

"Web3 is a sleeping giant of functionality, tested by humans, waiting to be unlocked by machines."

CHAPTER 1, P.6

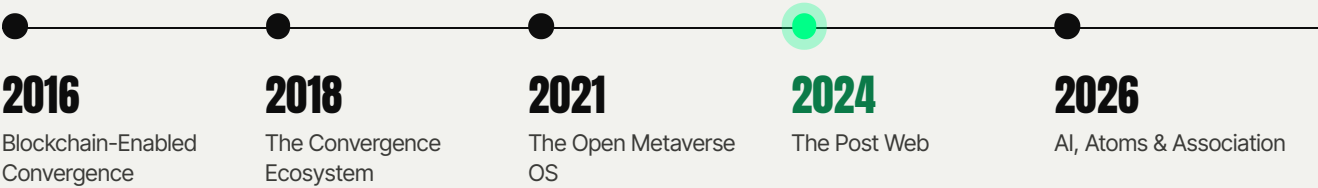
"The Post Web Technology Stack builds on the Web3 foundation we've collectively built as an industry, now reimaged and optimised for its new primary users: AI agents..."

CHAPTER 2, P.2

"In an agent-driven economy, verifiable proof, via DLT, outranks brand. If an outcome can't be proven, an agent will simply choose a competitor that can."

CHAPTER 3, P.13

The Post Web framed agents as the internet's new users and ledgers as the means of trusting them. OV's 2026 AI, Atoms & Association thesis extends that line. AI is now moving into the physical world. Verification becomes the scarce layer as machine output grows, and greater autonomy calls for new forms of coordination between people and machines.



READ THE ORIGINAL

Chapter 1: The Web is Disappearing (PDF) outlierventures.io/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/The-Post-Web-PDF-Chapter-1.pdf	Chapter 2: The Technology Stack (PDF) outlierventures.io/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Chapter-2-The-Post-Web-Chapter-2.pdf
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ORIGINAL CREDITS

Chapters 1 and 2 by Jamie Burke, Jasper De Maere (Head of Research) and Greysen Cacciatore. Chapter 3 by Jamie Burke and Greysen Cacciatore, with thanks to Jasper De Maere.

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